



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant(s) : Er-Xuan Ping  
Serial No. : 10/732,962  
Filed : December 11, 2003  
Title : EVEN NUCLEATION BETWEEN SILICON AND OXIDE SURFACES FOR  
THIN SILICON NITRIDE FILM GROWTH  
Docket : MIO 0088 V3/40509.280  
Art Unit : N/A

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 17, 2004.

William A. J. J. J.

Reg. No. 42,695

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, AND 1.98

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications, and other information of which he is aware, which he believes may be material, as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b), to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56(a). While the information referred to in this Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56(b), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(h), constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability of this invention. No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and Applicant reserves the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish otherwise. Further, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this Statement should not be construed as a statement that a search has been made or that no other material information exists.

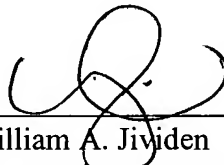
Serial No. 10/732,962  
Docket MIO 0088 V3/40509.280

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) because it is believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

The above application is a division of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/139,987 filed May 7, 2002. Pursuant to §1.98(d), copies of those items cited by or submitted to the Office in the prior application are not being submitted.

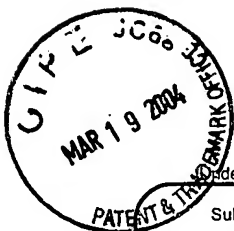
The Office has waived the requirement pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003. Therefore, no copies of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication are enclosed, but the cited U.S. patents and the cited U.S. patent application publications are listed on PTO/SB/08A.

Respectfully submitted,  
DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP

By   
William A. Jividen  
Registration No. 42,695

One Dayton Centre  
One South Main Street, Suite 500  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2023  
Telephone: (937) 223-2050  
Facsimile: (937) 223-0724

WAJ/kec  
Encl



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/732,962
Filing Date	December 11, 2003
First Named Inventor	Er-Xuan Ping
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	MIO 0088 V3/40509.280

Sheet 1 of 1

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,445,999	08/29/1995	Thakur et al.	
		US- 5,952,692	09/14/1999	Nakazato et al.	
		US- 6,017,791	01/25/2000	Wang et al.	
		US- 6,046,093	04/04/2000	DeBoer et al.	
		US- 6,071,771	06/06/2000	Schuegraf	
		US- 6,143,598	11/07/2000	Martin et al.	
		US- 6,235,571 B1	05/22/2001	Doan	
		US- 6,274,899 B1	08/14/2001	Melnick et al.	
		US- 6,465,373 B1	10/15/2002	Zheng et al.	
		US- 6,498,063 B1	12/24/2002	Ping	
		US- 2003/0020138 A1	01/30/2003	Zheng	
		US- 2003/0022436 A1	01/30/2003	Zheng	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND

TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.